

Appl 10/621001

Amdt dated October 8, 2004

Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original) A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool comprising:

an elongated substantially non-conductive handle portion having a working
tool extending substantially axially from one end of said handle
portion;

said handle portion having a plurality of separate outwardly opening cavities
formed into opposing side surfaces defined by generally H-shaped
transverse cross section segments of said handle portion;

an elongated tubular sheath formed of material buoyant in water and
extending substantially over said handle portion and enclosing said
cavities in airtight fashion to form airtight cavities, said sheath
cooperating with said airtight cavities to render said tool substantially
buoyant in water.

Claim 2 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool as set forth
in Claim 1, wherein:

said sleeve has a density of about 0.1 g/cc, the density of said handle
portion being about 1.3 to 1.6 g/cm.

Claim 3 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool as set forth
in Claim 1, wherein:

said handle portion is formed substantially of plastic or fiberglass.

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Claim 4 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

said handle portion is formed of fiberglass reinforced NYLON material.

Claim 5 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

said sheath is formed of closed cell foam material.

Claim 6 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

said sheath is formed of ethylene vinyl acetate having a density of about
0.12 g/cc.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (original): A non-conductive substantially buoyant-in-water hand tool comprising:

an elongated substantially non-conductive handle portion including a
working tool embedded in and extending substantially axially from
one end of said handle portion;

said handle portion having a plurality of separate outwardly opening cavities
formed into opposing side surfaces defined by generally H-shaped
transverse cross section segments of said handle portion;

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an elongated tubular sheath formed of material buoyant in water and
covering and sealingly enclosing each said cavity whereby the
effective density of said hand tool is less than that of water.